Tax rebate for Kargil martyrs

†205. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be peased to state:

(a) whether there are provisions for giving rebate in paying various central taxes to the widows of Kargil martyrs and also to the widows of the personnel killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance is considering the proposal to give uniform rebate to the families of both the categories of the martyrs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. There are no such provisions in the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Strike in Banking Sector

†206. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the strikes observed in the Banking Sector during the last one year;

(b) the effect on the banking business and losses suffered by banks due to these strikes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring public sector banks at par with the private banks and by when the result of the same will be forthcoming?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) During the period 1st July, 2002 to 30th June, 2003, there were two industry level strikes on 2.5.2003 and 21.5.2003 and three bank level strikes on 21.2.2003, 17.3.2003 and 28.3.2003.

(b) Strikes in banking industry to cause inconvenience to the public and financial loss to trade and industry as the business cannot be transacted and clearing houses do not function on the day of strike. However, it is not possible to quantify the loss on this account.

(c) Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks differ in various respects such as shareholding, management etc. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to compare them with each other.

Delay in sanctioning loans

†207. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is delay in getting loans from banks and financial institutions for the projects of companies;

(b) what is the number of complaints received by Government in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that loans are provided to the companies in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government does receive complaints from borrowers on different aspects of banking, including delay in disbursement of loans. These complaints are taken up with concerned banks and financial institutions for remedial action and redressed. No separate figures are being maintained about complaints relating to delay in getting loans.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines relating to Fair Practice Code for lenders to all scheduled commercial banks on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.